



*Retired and Former Police  
Association of N.S.W. Inc.*  
(Established 1931)

**Central Coast Branch**  
**April, 2025.**

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: John Marheine Postal address: 37 Northcott Ave,  
Watanobbi, NSW, 2259. Tel: 0400 724 768

---

**GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.**

We can only watch in utter dismay at the world events taking place, with those world leaders whom we may have trusted to pursue peace, engaged more and more in incitement and destruction, apparently with little consideration for the outcome of those powerless victims. Whilst we watch in horror we can only wonder when those in our land who come after us will be called upon to contribute, something we hoped would never happen again. And our concern can only become greater as we approach the many tributes which will be paid on Anzac Day, now so close but with world peace so far away. Here, in our little segment of the world, we can only hope that we can remain removed from conflict and care for those near to us. Let us make the most of every day's blessings and, perhaps, look forward to better times.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vale Janice Greentree – 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025.**

How sad it is that we have lost another of our older ladies. Janice Greentree passed away in Gosford Hospital on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025, at the age of 84 years. Our Chairman, Geoff Talbot, attended her funeral which was held at Mackay's Family Funerals on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. Janice was the wife of former Chief Inspector Ray Greentree who passed away 14 years ago.

Our sympathies are with Janice's family. May she rest in peace.

.....

**Vale Richard Taylor – 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.**

Another sad loss. An intending Member, Richard ("Squizzy") Taylor, a former prosecutor with a significant number of years in that role, including some years on he

Central Coast, passed away at 64 years of age, having attended but one sausage sizzle and there renewed friendship with Members with whom he had worked in years gone by. He had not long retired from his Police service.

Our sympathies are with Richard's family and we do understand the suddenness of his passing.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.**

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 15th April, 2025, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Vice Chairman Russell Whitcher. A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder.

### **Attendances:**

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Geoff Bown, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, John and Joan Corbett, Neil Dick, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Grant Harridge, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Chris Olen, Ron Richmond, John Roger, Phill Stubbs-Mills, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher,

Apologies were recorded.

### **Visitor:**

Our Chairman, Russ, welcomed our visitor, Les Potter, to the Meeting and we were pleased to see him joining us once again.

### **Deaths.**

The names of Members who have passed away since last Meeting were read out and a minute's silence was observed.

It was mentioned that another well known former Police Officer, Bruce Coates, passed away recently suffering from terminal cancer. Bruce was not a Member of our Branch but was known to a number of our Members and was well respected.

\*\*\*\*\*

The minutes of the last Meeting held in February, 2025, were read by the Secretary, John Marheine.

It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Bruce Gibson, that the minutes be accepted.

### **Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence in or out.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer's report was read by the Treasurer, Ray Hatcher.

It was moved by John Kent, seconded by Peter Drinan, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Our OBE Roll Call.**

#### **Gents:**

Ted Aitken, Keith Rhodes, Bruce C. Doust, Russ Jackson, John Green, Kevin Turner, John Marheine, Noel Murphy, Edward (Mick) Arnold, Wally Maher, Ernie Carmichael, Donald Harding, Bruce Gibson, Bill Ide, Barry Clark, Neil Ashman, Tony Connolly, John Tripp, Brian Zimmerli, Lawrence Huntington, William Dent, Ernest Benson, Mervyn Lane, Brian McVicar, Tony Thorrington, Paul Dixon, Jim Bonner, Dick Reid, Keith Hockley, John Nicholas, Carl Ripphausen, Bede Irvine, Father Jim Boland, Bryan Low.

#### **Ladies:**

A. Staunton, Myrlene Hauser, Adele Dale, Pauline Braithwaite, Kitty Dowse, Maureen Groch, Marj Clark, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson, Virginia Connolly.

### **WELFARE REPORT:**

Our Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, presented details to the Meeting of those Members who are not travelling so well.

Barry said that Trevor Carroll, who has been suffering from throat cancer for some time now, is still having ongoing treatment but his doctors are pleased with his current progress and it seems he is improving albeit slowly.

Barry said that Bill Ide is still having treatment but is progressing fairly well and his doctors are pleased with his progress.

Barry told the Meeting that Father Jim has ongoing back problems, following surgery, and will not be able to attend any more Meetings.

.....

John Nicholas told Members that he has undergone the insertion of a pacemaker since the last Meeting and is having ongoing treatment for heart problems.

Peter Drinan told the Meeting that he has recently undergone surgery for the relief of carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands. He said that he was treated by a Dr Sarah Hanslow who carried out a new procedure which restored the use of his hands almost immediately, being able to wash hands shortly after and the use of his hands was restored by the third day. Peter said that he could highly recommend Dr Hanslow as a treating surgeon.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Social Club.**

Peter Caddy informed the Meeting that there are no current plans for mixed lunches but it is expected that we will have a Christmas in July outing, probably in late July, and it is intended to check out several venues. Members will be informed in due course.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **General Business:**

John Nicholas told the Meeting of a display to be held shortly, during the Royal Easter Show, at Sydney Showground, which will include the Mounted Police musical ride and a display of Highway Patrol motor cyclists doing figure 8 formations. John said that his son, Peter, who is part of a Highway Patrol unit, will be taking part.

.....

Ray Hatcher raised the subject of possible day trips, such as bus tours, to see if any Members would be interested and he told the Meeting that one organization, known as Palmers, conducts such trips travelling to various locations.

Peter Caddy said that one such trip which he undertook was to the new Badgery Creek airport and he said it was incredible to see the work being carried out, at one time 290 earth moving trucks going up and down in rotation with incredible amounts of earth being moved. He said that he returned there 4 weeks ago and work was being carried out for the second runway. He described it as an amazing project.

John Marheine said that, at the next Meeting, which will be on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, he will circulate several copies of the new Members rolls. He asked Members to examine the rolls to check that their respective details are correct. He said that some Members no longer have land line telephones but we don't have records of their mobile numbers. John said that he will be required to send copies of the rolls away by the end of June.

.....

During the course of General Business, Brian McVicar made a presentation to our Secretary, John, in recognition of his recent 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. In response, John thanked those Members who attended his surprise birthday party. Reference to that occasion and photos taken there appear later in the Newsletter, as well as a photo taken at the Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

The raffle was won by Brian McVicar.

The Meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

### **Sausage Sizzle.**

After a tremendously hot weekend, it was great to be at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, on a beautiful, pleasant day, of moderate temperature, on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, (after recovering from the excitement of St Patrick's Day the previous day), to enjoy the extraordinary cuisine produced by Brian McVicar's dedicated deputies in his absence. But, without Brian's supervisory talents, Geoff Bown took over the role of head chef, assisted by his loyal supporters, and they produced great food, as always, and Members and visitors were able to relax and enjoy the company – and the old tales! Why ever would you want to miss it?!!

### **A tribute to a much revered colleague.**

On Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, Members and family gathered together at the Wallarah Bay Recreation Club, at Gorokan, to celebrate the forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Branch Secretary, John Marheine, and to acknowledge the work he has done in that role over a

number of years. In his Police service, John achieved the rank of Detective Chief Inspector, and we certainly appreciate the work he has done in his present role. In the following photo John displays the Certificate of Appreciation presented to him by Chairman Geoff on behalf of the NSW Retired and Former Police Association. A well deserved tribute indeed.

At the Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, John displayed the plaque which Chairman Geoff presented to him at the party. He said that, since that occasion, he has learned that about 20 such plaques have been presented to Members of other Branches for the work they have done and he said that he is very pleased to have received it. Brian McVicar said that the Association has actually made John a Life Member in recognition of the work he has done on the Association's behalf over many years and Brian commended him for his efforts.



And there he is, (next page), at the party, about to blow out the candles.







Here John is seen holding his Certificate, together with Vice Chairman Russ Whitcher and Treasurer Ray Hatcher. At least, on this occasion, he only had one arm bandaged. John you must pay more attention to preservation.

### **The Ladies Coffee Club.**

It is inspiring to know that the ladies are still thriving, despite one or two losses, but they carry on as they have done for so many years. Whatever would we have done without them. Age certainly does not seem to weary them and they have shown so many times that they are there to support us, to guide us away from our poor decisions and to pick up the pieces when we have unwittingly stumbled into those poor decisions. If only we had known, in our younger years, what wonderful assets they would be, perhaps we would have given them greater respect, perhaps greater accolades, and better understood the contribution that women make to the human race. Perhaps if there were more women controlling more of the super powers the world might be a better place for so many people.



The ladies of the Ladies Coffee Club would like to acknowledge the extent of the voluntary work performed by so many Members of our Branch, starting with our Chairman, Geoff Talbot, but including numerous others, and the tireless efforts they make to ensure that everything runs smoothly, that care and thought are given to those not enjoying good health and that every effort is made to attend their needs. The celebration of John Marheine's birthday only served to emphasise the extent of those efforts and were it not for those efforts the Ladies Coffee Club would simply not exist.

### **THE CALENDAR.**

Members might note the following dates and perhaps include them in your diaries:

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. Annual General Meeting & General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

15<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

18<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

### **Some Old History.**

The following photos were supplied to our Branch by Mr Dick Whitaker who has been our guest speaker on a couple of occasions. They will certainly stir some memories.



The photo above was taken, facing south east, at the intersection of Cleveland and Baptist Streets, Redfern, on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1957, showing a tram about to travel west in Cleveland Street. On the right of the photo is a bank building but, beyond that, in the right background, is the radio mast for what was then the Police radio station, VKG, located at the rear of the then Police Training Centre, later the Police Academy, in the vicinity of the Mounted Police stables, which are still at that location, and the formal address of which was 749 Bourke Street, Redfern.

The following photo shows the CIB building located at the corner of Smith and Campbell Streets, Surry Hills. The radio mast can be seen, above the building, in the left background. It was moved to that location in 1965. The Police radio station still has the same call sign, VKG.



### **And what does the future hold.**

Let us hope that, as the year progresses, living standards will improve for everyone, whether that be for groceries at the supermarket, medications at the chemist or even on the world stage, unlikely as that may be. But, here, in our little corner of the world we can only hope that we can avoid disasters like earthquakes, tropical cyclones, even bush fires, the things that have been affecting so many of our neighbours. Our best outlook is to keep ourselves as fit as possible, care for our loved ones, and those around us who may need help from time to time, and accept that every day is a bonus. We must enjoy the sun when it rises, just as the plants appreciate the rain, and hope that the next day will be even better. Remaining positive is surely one of the most important features of increasing age and that positivity is something we should share as far as possible. We can only hope that everyone is in the best health they possibly can be.

With best wishes to everyone.

### **Editor:**

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

**Tel:** (02) 4390 7034.

**Email:** [johncarm2@bigpond.com](mailto:johncarm2@bigpond.com)

